

REMARKS

The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to ensure the required language and format.

The nonprovisional parent application is still pending. Therefore, no amendment to the specification has been made at this time.

The claims have been amended to ensure compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the copper layer and the metal layer of the negative electrode current collector plate form opposite surface layers of the collector plate and that the copper layer is welded to an edge of the negative electrode (21) projecting at one of opposite ends of the electrode unit (2) in the direction of the winding axis thereof. This amendment does not change the scope of the claim because it is clear from the recitation of claim 1 prior to the above amendment that only the copper layer of the negative electrode current collector plate is in contact with the negative electrode. Claims 4-6 have been amended for consistency with the amendments to claim 1.

Removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 ground of rejection is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited.

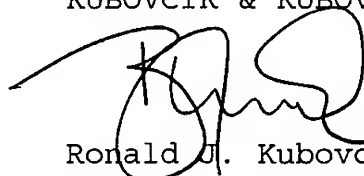
The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated August 29, 2003, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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